2777. Proposed by W. D. CAIRNS, Oberlin College.

Prove that the two series

$$1 + \frac{\pi^4}{2^4 \cdot 4!} + \frac{\pi^8}{2^8 \cdot 8!} + \cdots,$$

and

$$\frac{\pi^2}{2^2 \cdot 2!} + \frac{\pi^6}{2^6 \cdot 6!} + \frac{\pi^{10}}{2^{10} \cdot 10!} + \cdots$$

are equal.

2778. Proposed by WARREN WEAVER, University of Wisconsin.

A partition of space is effected by means of five planes, none of which are parallel and no four of which pass through the same point, and six spheres. This divides all space into n regions, some of which are finite and some infinite. Considering it equally probable that a bird be in any one of the n regions show that the probability of its being caught (that is, of its being in one of the finite regions) is equal to or less than 78/99.

2779. Proposed by J. L. RILEY, Junior Agricultural and Mechanics College, Stephenville, Texas.

A parabola is placed with its axis horizontal; find the straight line of shortest descent from the curve to the focus.

406 (Algebra) [March, 1914]. Proposed by S. A. COREY, Albia, Iowa.

Solve the system of equations:

$$(1 - x)(a_1 + a_2y + a_3z) = d, \quad (1 - y)(b_1 + b_2x + b_3z) = g, \quad (1 - z)(c_1 + c_2x + c_3y) = h.$$

411 (Algebra) [April, 1914]. Proposed by V. M. SPUNAR, Chicago, Ill.

Determine $x_1, x_2, x_3, \cdots x_p$, from the equations:

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + \cdots + x_p &= a_0, \\ b_1x_1 + b_2x_2 + b_3x_3 + \cdots + b_px_p &= a_1, \\ b_1^2x_1 + b_2^2x_2 + b_3^2x_3 + \cdots + b_p^2x_p &= a_2, \\ \cdots\cdots\cdots\cdots\cdots\cdots\cdots\cdots \\ b_1^{p-1}x_1 + b_2^{p-1}x_2 + b_3^{p-1}x_3 + \cdots + b_p^{p-1}x_p &= a_{p-1}. \end{aligned}$$

442 (Geometry) [May, 1914]. Proposed by J. B. SMITH, Hampden-Sidney College.

If any three straight lines AD, BE, CF, be drawn from the corners of the triangle ABC to the opposite sides a, b, c, they will enclose an area. If Δ, Δ'' be the areas of the triangles ABC, DEF, show that

$$\frac{\Delta''}{\Delta} = \frac{(AF \cdot BD \cdot CE - AE \cdot CD \cdot BF)^2}{(ab - CE \cdot CD)(bc - AE \cdot AF)(ca - BF \cdot BD)},$$

where the signs of the factors are to be determined by the following rule: Each segment being measured from one of the corners of the triangle ABC, along one of the sides, is to be regarded as positive or negative according as it is drawn towards or from the other corner in that side.

455 (Geometry) [February, 1915]. Proposed by R. P. BAKER, University of Iowa.

Find the minimum triangle of assigned angles inscribed in a given triangle.

348 (Calculus) [December, 1913]. Proposed by E. L. DODD, University of Texas.

Let $(x_1, x_2, \cdots x_n)$ be a point in n dimensions lying in the "sphere" S defined by

$$x_1^2 + x_2^2 + \cdots + x_n^2 \leqq 1.$$

Let T be that part of S defined by a set of n linear homogeneous inequalities with non-vanishing determinant; thus:

$$a_ix_1 + b_ix_2 + \cdots + k_ix_n \geqq 0, \quad i = 1, 2, \cdots n.$$

Find the value of